



NEWS RELEASE

PEI Seafood Industry Heading to Maritime Fisheries Forum in Moncton: *Access to Labour is a Key Topic*

(July 24, 2015-Charlottetown) Representatives of Prince Edward Island's seafood processing, harvesting, and aquaculture sector will be heading to Moncton on July 29th to participate in the Fisheries' Forum.

The event is being hosted by the Maritime Seafood Coalition, a group of eight seafood industry associations, representing both harvesters and processors that have come together to address issues impacting industry growth in the Maritimes.

The Coalition has invited a cross-section of stakeholders to the Forum, including seafood companies, industry associations, provincial and federal government officials, and provincial and federal politicians.

One of the key issues the forum will address is the challenge the sector faces in expanding exports in light of new trade agreements when companies are being forced to cut the number of temporary foreign workers they can hire.

"Our processors are challenged to meet existing contracts with the labour shortages they face in rural communities. Ramping up production for new markets is just not possible with the current labour supply situation, says Dennis King, Executive Director of the PEI Seafood Processors Association.

The issue of access to workers in rural communities to support the seafood industry is one that concerns both processors and fishers alike.

"The impact of insufficient staff at the plants is reduced economic opportunity for the harvesters. This directly translates into lost revenue in local communities, the province and the country," says Ian MacPherson, Executive Director of the PEI Fishermen's Association.

The Coalition hopes that the pending federal election provides an opportunity for the maritime seafood industry to make its case for the kind of policy changes that will allow processors and fishers to benefit



“As an industry, we know we are much stronger when we stand together to address issues that confront all of us. The Fisheries Forum is the kind of event that allows us to come together and tell a common story on important issues like access to labour,” said Ann Worth Executive Director of the Prince Edward Island Aquaculture Alliance.

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